

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-11, and 14-19 are now pending in the application, with claims 1 and 7 being the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 7 and 9 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have done so above by amending claim 7 to include all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Accordingly, claims 7 and 9 are believed to be allowable.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,280,273 (Goldstein); claims 3, 4, 10 and 11 were rejected under § 103(a) over Goldstein in view of U.S. Patent 5,729,207 (Yamano); and claim 5 was rejected under § 103(a) over Goldstein in view of Yamano and U.S. Patent 5,440,293 (Tice). Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

The present invention concerns an alarm system that includes a housing assembly and a cartridge that detachably mounts within the housing assembly. The cartridge includes detection circuitry, a power source and an alarm such that the cartridge is operable independently of the housing assembly to detect heat, radiation and/or pollutants and to activate the alarm in the event of such a detection. See, e.g., Page 3 lines 19-23 of the Specification.

Thus, independent claim 1 is directed to a system for detecting heat, radiation and/or pollutants. The system includes a housing assembly and a cartridge that is detachably mountable within such housing assembly. The cartridge contains a

detection apparatus for detecting at least one of heat, radiation and pollutants. The detection apparatus, in turn, includes detection circuitry, a power source and an alarm, such that the cartridge is operable independently of the housing assembly to detect such heat, radiation and/or pollutants and to activate the alarm upon such detection.

The foregoing combination of features is not disclosed by Goldstein. In particular, Goldstein does not disclose at least the feature of a detachably mountable cartridge that includes detection circuitry, a power source and an alarm such that the cartridge may be operated independently of a housing assembly to which it detachably mounts, in order to detect heat, radiation and/or pollutants, and to activate the alarm upon such a detection.

In this regard, the Office Action asserts that the presently recited cartridge reads on Goldstein's base 10 and that the presently recited housing assembly reads on Goldstein's cover 12. However, a close reading of the specific portions of Goldstein cited in the Office Action (Figure 1 and column 2 lines 64-67) reveals that Goldstein's cover 12 is just that, a cover. Goldstein does not appear to ever refer to cover 12 as a housing assembly and, in fact, the above-referenced portion of Goldstein notes that his "housing" actually includes both his base 10 and his cover 12. Given this clear language, it cannot be asserted that the alleged cartridge in Goldstein detachably mounts within Goldstein's housing because the alleged cartridge actually is part of Goldstein's housing. Similarly, it is believed to be inappropriate to attempt to re-characterize Goldstein's cover 12 as his entire housing, when Goldstein himself considers his cover 12 to be only a portion of his housing.

When Goldstein's disclosure is properly viewed, as described by Goldstein himself, it is clear that the only element in Goldstein that appears to be detachably mountable within Goldstein's housing is his box 30 or his drawer 32. However, neither such element has the features of a "cartridge", as recited in independent claim 1. In fact, the Office Action has not even alleged that either such element has such features.

Lacking the feature of a detachably mountable cartridge (as defined in independent claim 1), Goldstein cannot be said to anticipate claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The other rejected claims in the application depend from independent claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons. In addition, each such dependent claim recites an additional feature of the invention that further distinguishes the invention from the applied art. Accordingly, the individual reconsideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In addition, dependent claims 14-19 have been newly added and are believed to be allowable for the following additional reasons.

Claim 14 depends from independent claim 1 and recites the additional feature that the housing assembly also includes a ceiling mount. See, e.g., page 1 lines 8-12; and page 2 line 20 to page 3 line 1 of the Specification. There would appear to have been no motivation to include a ceiling mount on Goldstein's cover 12, particularly since cover 12 is provided with a number of slots 13 on its upper and side surfaces for allowing ambient air to circulate through the housing. See, e.g., Goldstein's column 2 lines 65-67 and Figure 1. The use of any such ceiling mount presumably would interfere with Goldstein's desired ambient airflow.

Claim 15 depends from independent claim 1 and recites the additional feature that the cartridge is slidably mountable within the housing assembly. See, e.g., page 2 lines 1-3 of the Specification. Clearly, Goldstein's base 10 is not slidably mountable within his cover 12 and there appears to be no suggestion to make it so. Similarly, dependent claims 16 and 17 include further limitations regarding mechanisms pursuant to which the cartridge of the present convention is slidably mountable within the housing assembly. Those claims are supported, e.g., at page 3, lines 6-13 of the Specification. Lacking even a slidably mountable cartridge, as recited in claim 15, Goldstein could not possibly have disclosed or suggested these additional features of the invention.

Claim 18 depends from independent claim 1 and recites the additional feature that the housing assembly includes a first connector for connecting to an external electrical power supply. See, e.g., page 4, lines 22-27 of the Specification. Nothing in Goldstein appears to disclose or to suggest providing his cover 12 with such a connector.

Claim 19 depends from dependent claim 18 and recites the additional feature that the housing assembly includes a second connector for connecting the cartridge to electrical power from the external electrical power supply. See, e.g., page 4, lines 22-27 of the Specification. Nothing in Goldstein appears to disclose or to suggest providing his cover 12 with such an additional connector.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

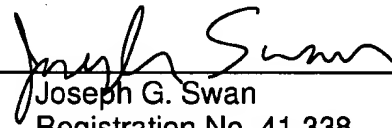
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Respectfully submitted,

MITCHELL, SILBERBERG & KNUPP LLP

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By 
Joseph G. Swan
Registration No. 41,338

MITCHELL, SILBERBERG & KNUPP LLP
11377 West Olympic Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90064
Telephone: (310) 312-2000
Facsimile: (310) 312-3100